

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #P.G. #69-21 Building Date: 1884

Building Name: Cherry Hill Cemetery

Location: 6821 Ingraham Street, Beacon Heights

Public/Cemetery/Occupied/Fair/Accessible

Description

The Cherry Hill Cemetery is located between Lots 9 and 10 on the east side of Ingraham Street in the Beacon Heights subdivision. It has an 88 foot frontage along Ingraham Street. The cemetery is located on a 4.5 acre parcel. It is not known over how much of the parcel the cemetery extends, because the burials are now unmarked. The lot has a precipitously sloping topography, starting at a low bank along Ingraham Street then sloping downward toward the east, a drop of 55 feet from the west to the east side of the lot. The parcel is primarily wooded, with growth that has appeared since 1955, when Beacon Heights was subdivided.

Significance

The Cherry Hill Cemetery is significant as the only cemetery known to exist at this time, related to the free black and slave community of the Riverdale-Bladensburg-Hyattsville area. One other cemetery, similarly related was destroyed by development and the burials moved to Harmony Hill Cemetery in Landover. Cherry Hill is one of the few remaining sites related to what was a thriving black community in the Bladensburg area, following the Civil War. It is the resting place of numerous Adams, Becketts, Plummers, Quinces, Edwards, Grices and others. Josiah Adams, on whose farm the cemetery was located beginning in 1884, was a free black, who may be descended from a line of free blacks. Further research on the Adams family could yield valuable information on the lives of free blacks in Prince George's County during the 18th and 19th century.

Acreage: 5.8 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG#69-21

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Cherry Hill Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6821 Ingraham Street not for publication

city, town Riverdale vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>district</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>building(s)</u>	<u>private</u>	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u>
			<u>museum</u>
			<u>park</u>
			<u>private residence</u>
			<u>religious</u>
			<u>scientific</u>
			<u>transportation</u>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Prince George's County, Maryland

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive Property Acquisition telephone no.: 952-5180

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code MD 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 1863

street & number Main Street folio 581

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #69-21

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Cherry Hill Cemetery is located between Lots 9 and 10 on the east side of Ingraham Street in the Beacon Heights subdivision. It has an 88 foot frontage along Ingraham Street. The cemetery is located on a 4.5 acre parcel. It is not known over how much of the parcel the cemetery extends, because the burials are now unmarked.

The cemetery lot has a precipitously sloping topography. It starts at a low bank along Ingraham Street and then slopes downward toward the east in a continuous hillside to Furman Parkway, a drop of 55 feet from the west to the east side of the lot. The parcel is primarily wooded, with growth that has appeared since 1955, when Beacon Heights was subdivided.

The appearance of the cemetery lot from Ingraham street is that of a low grassy bank with a few scattered trees behind it. A dense tree line approximately 75 feet from the street marks the point at which the land starts to slope percipitously down. Scattered over the approximately 75 by 88 foot section of the lot that borders Ingraham Street are foot-sized chunks of local iron-bearing standstone. According to neighborhood residents, these stones were once standing upright, arranged in rows, marking graves.

It is not apparent upon visual inspection that this lot was a burial ground. According to neighborhood residents, it was more obvious in past years when the stones were still standing upright and plantings on some of the graves were periodically maintained.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.# 69-21

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates	1884-1940	Builder/Architect
check:	Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
	and/or	
	Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
	Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cherry Hill Cemetery is significant as the only cemetery known to exist at this time, related to the free black and slave community of the Riverdale-Bladensburg-Hyattsville area. One other cemetery, similarly related was destroyed by development and the burials moved to Harmony Hill Cemetery in Landover.¹ Cherry Hill is one of the few remaining sites related to what was a thriving black community in the Bladensburg area, following the Civil War. It is the resting place of numerous Adams, Becketts, Plummers, Quinces, Edwards, Grices and others.² Josiah Adams, on whose farm the cemetery was located beginning in 1884, was a free black, who may be descended from a line of free blacks. Further research on the Adams family could yield valuable information on the lives of free blacks in Prince George's County during the 18th and 19th century. Individuals belonging to related families buried in the cemetery figured prominently in the Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County community. These include George Wilson Grice, Jr., a community activist and Washington, D.C. businessman; and Rachel Grice Henry, principle of Croome Institute, a school for young black girls in Prince George's County.³

Beginning in 1871, Josiah Adams began to amass the parcels that eventually composed his 49.5 acre farm. In 1874 he purchased 20 acres of a tract called Walker's Fork from Richard B. Beanes.⁴ In 1879 he purchased an additional 23 acres from Nicholas C. Stephen.⁵ In 1883, in the year prior to his death, he purchased an adjoining 4 acres from Miletus J. Wine.⁶ Adams died in 1884 and in his will divided his farm into 7 parcels, to be distributed among his children. The southwest corner of Lot #2 was designated as the "family burying ground",⁷ measuring 3 by 3 perches or approximately 50 by 50 feet. It later became known to the family as the Cherry Hill Cemetery.

Adams left the 9.58 acre Lot #2, containing the family burial ground to daughters Margaret Adams Hammond and Catherine Adams Harrison. The lot also contained the family dwelling house and well.⁸

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G.#69-21

Section 8 Page 2

In 1931, Lot #2 passed from Katherine Branch, only heir of Margaret Adams Hammond, to Marv Lizena Grice. In 1940, Grice passed Lot #2 to her daughter, Rose Grice Brown.⁹ In 1955, Rose Grice Brown sold the land containing the family cemetery to I. Melvin and Lillian Kramer, who subdivided the area, including the land composing the former Josiah Adams farm, as the Beacon Heights residential subdivision.¹⁰ Mrs. Brown sold the cemetery lot with a verbal agreement that the cemetery would remain undisturbed.¹¹ Kramer left a 4.5 acre parcel, including the cemetery, unbuilt. The cemetery fronts on the east side of Ingraham Street, between Lots 9 and 10 of the subdivision.

Graves were marked with "folk"-type stones rather than purchased markers. Josiah Adams grave was marked by a large boulder or field stone placed upright and carved upon. Other graves were marked with smaller pieces of the local iron-bearing sandstone, also placed upright in the ground.¹² One marker, which still exists, is a rectangular pillar or shaft of concrete approximately 3 feet in height with an illegible inscription.

The last burial in the Cherry Hill Cemetery was in the early 1940's. For many years, remaining family members visited the cemetery with some regularity and placed flowers on the graves. Descendents are scattered in Washington, D.C., Riverdale and Brentwood, as well as Pennsylvania and Ohio. In recent years visits to the cemetery by family members have ceased. The property was repossessed from the Kramers by the County for nonpayment of taxes and sold in 1988 to a developer who wished to construct two houses on it. Over the years the upright marker stones apparently fell over and were no longer in rows. During 1988 the large stone marking the Josiah Adams grave disappeared. Knowledge of the existence of the cemetery on the seemingly open lot was only with long time residents of the Beacon Heights subdivision.

The Beacon Heights Citizens' Association was able to block the development of the 4.5 acre parcel into two house lots, and ownership of the property rests once again with the County. Rose Grice Brown, while elderly, still resides in the neighborhood and was contacted for more information on the cemetery. She had no knowledge of the impending development plans. Through her, other family members were interviewed by members of the Citizens' Association and Bianca Floyd, Manager of Park and Planning's Black History Project. At this time, no comprehensive list of the number of burials or names of family members buried has been found. The extent of the Cherry Hill Cemetery and the extensive history of related families remains a project for ongoing research.

Notes

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G.#69-21

Section 8 Page 3

1 "The Adams Family and Cherry Hill Cemetery of Beacon Heights," a report written by Bianca P. Floyd, Manager, Black History Project, M-NCPPC.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Prince George's County Land Records, HB 5:71.

5 Land Records, ATB 1:276.

6 Land Records, JWB 2:313.

7 Wills, WAJ JR 1:388.

8 Plat filed with Will WAJ JR 1:388, in Administration file #1263.

9 Land Records, 366:407, 572:247.

10 26:97, Plat of Subdivision, Beacon Heights, October 1955.

11 Affidavit, Rose Grice Brown, September 30, 1988.

12 Interview with Lee Gramlich, Beacon Heights Citizen's Association, September 23, 1988.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#69-21

See notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.8 acres

Tax Map 43 parcel 113

Quadrangle name Washington East F

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

B

Zone	Easting					North	ing		

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date June 1989

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive Room 4010

telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro

state MD 20772

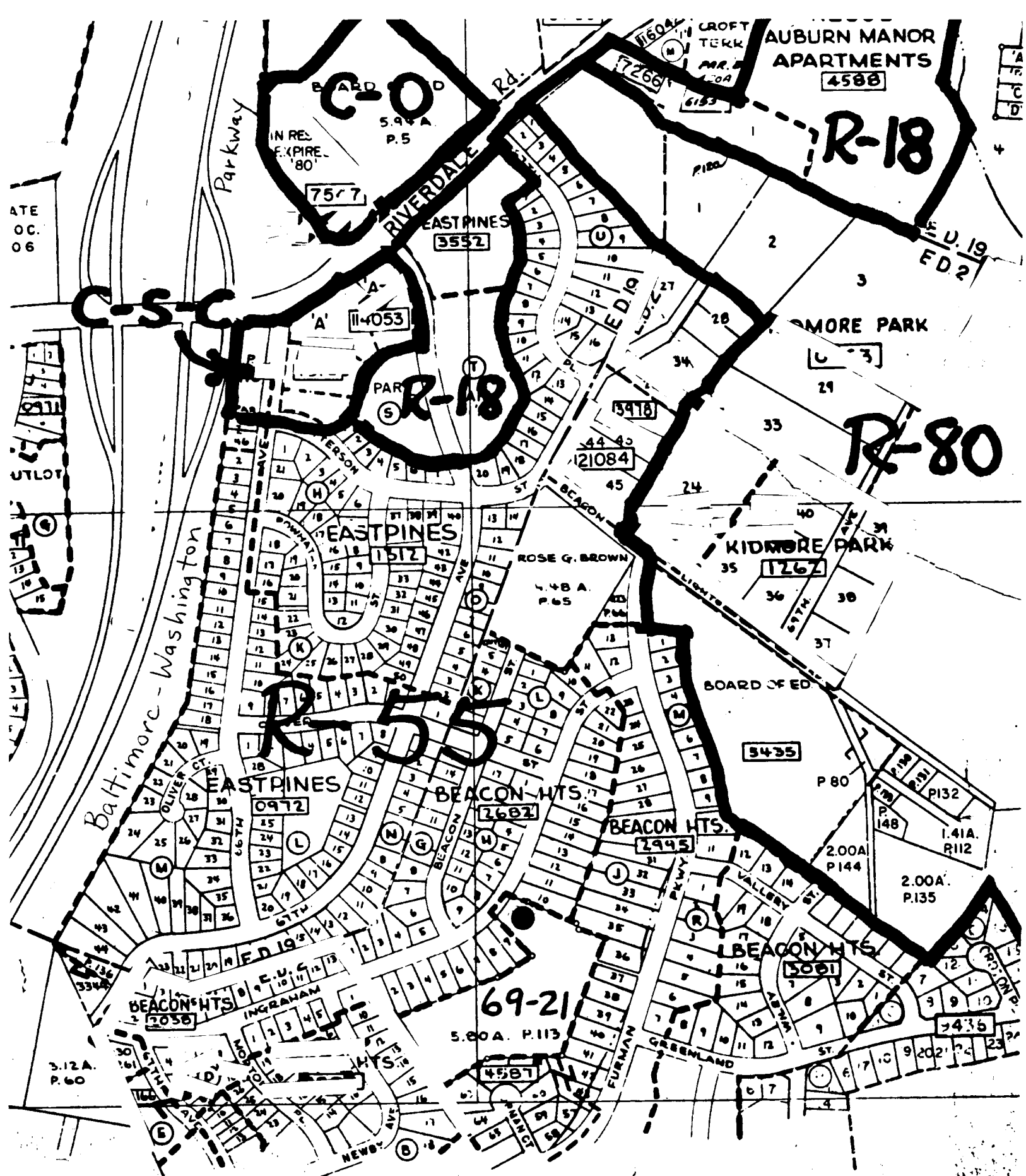
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

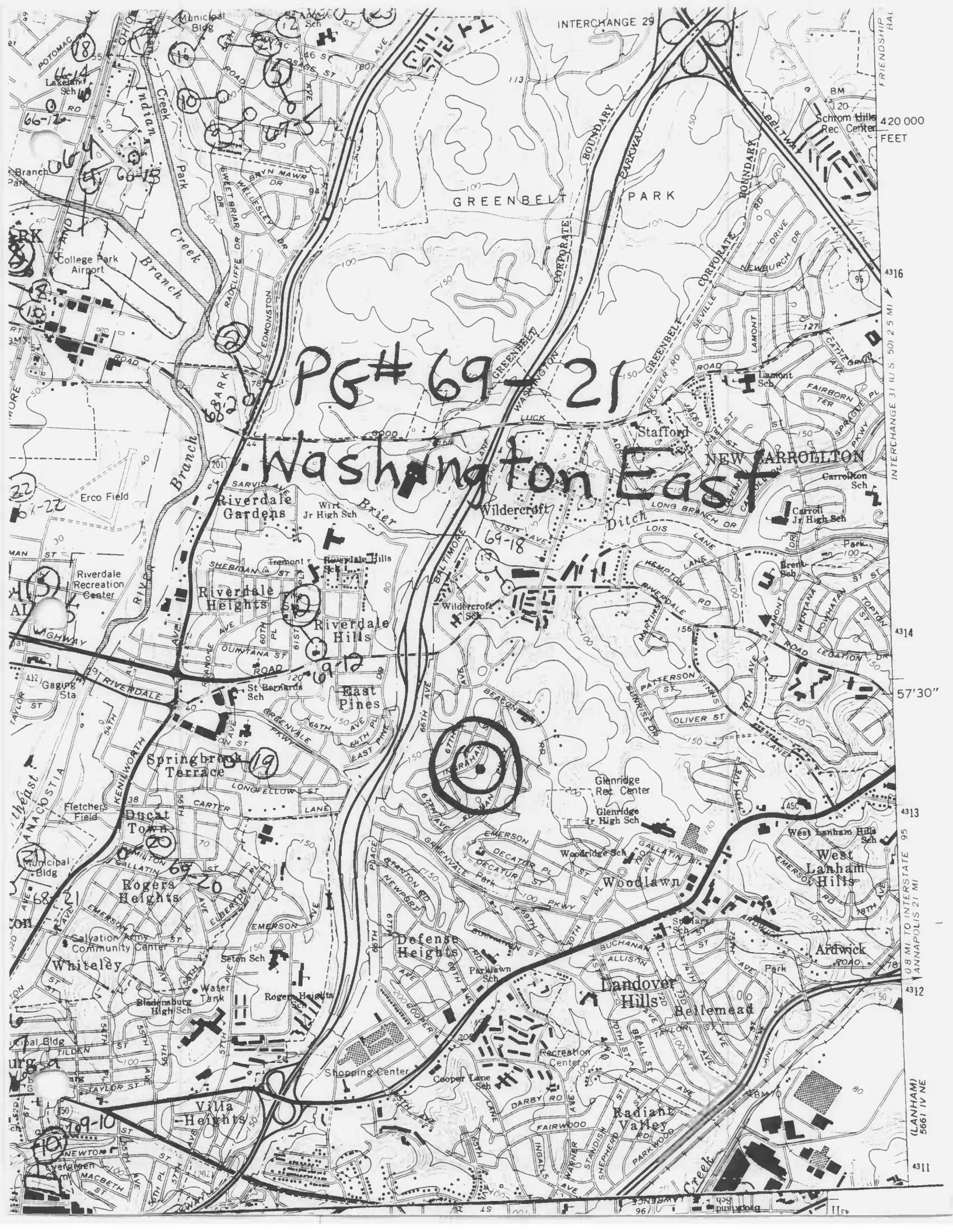
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title
Cherry Hill Cemetery
P.G. #69-21

1863:581 24 May 1955 Deed	Rose Grice Brown and Hillery H. Brown, her husband to Melvin and Lillian Kramer. Part of same obtained from Mary L. Grice, widow, 572:247. Remainder of Lot 2 Josiah Adams Farm, 7.46 acres. Exclusive of part conveyed to J.J. Ingram, 1743:385.
1863:578 24 May 1955 Deed	J. Jack Ingram and wife to Melvin and Lillian Kramer. Same obtained from Rose Grice Brown, 29 June 1954, 1743:385, 1.97 acres. Part of Lot 2.
1743:385 27 June 1954 Deed	Rose Grice Brown and Hillary H. Brown to J. Jack Ingram and Blanche L. Ingram. For \$10.00 grantors convey part of Lot 2 in Division of estate of Josiah Adams, allotted to Margaret Adams Hammond, conveyed by 572:247, 2.0 acres.
572:247 28 Oct. 1940 Deed	Mary L. Grice, widow to Rose Grice Brown. for \$10.00 grantor convey same land obtained from Katherin Branch and Thomas N. Magruder, Treasurer of Prince George's County, September 4, 1931 and Nov. 10, 1933, 366:407. All of Lot 2 of Josiah Adams farm, 9.58 acres. Also Lot 3 of estate, allotted to Levi Adams.
366:407 4 Sept. 1931 Deed	Katherine Branch, heir at law of Margaret Hammond, nee Adams, to Mary L. Grice of Washington, D.C. For \$10.00 grantor conveys Lot 2 of Josiah Adams farm, 9.58 acres.
WAJ JR 1:388 1884 Will	Josiah Adams, testator. Directs that he be buried in cemetery on Lot #2 of his land. Divides Lots #1-7 among his children. Total of 49.5 acre farm. Plat included in Administration File #1263.
HB 5:71 5 Sept. 1971 Deed	Richard B. Beanes, for \$550 grantor conveys to Josiah Adams of Washington, D.C. a tract adjoining Walker's Fork, 10 acres and another parcel of 10 acres.
ATB 1:276 27 May 1879 Deed	Nicholas C. Stephens, for \$238 grantor conveys to Josiah Adams. "Part of Columbia" or "Walker's Fork," 23 acres.
JWB 2:313 7 Aug. 1883 Indenture	Miletus J. Wine and Josiah Adams of Prince George's County. For \$75 grantor conveys Lot 12 of subdivision, "Part of Simmon's Lot", and two parts of Walker's Fork. Part of subdivision recorded in Land Records, 4 acres.





PG# 69-21

Washington East

420 000
FEET

4316

4314

57'30"

4313

4312

4311

4310

4309

4308

4307

4306





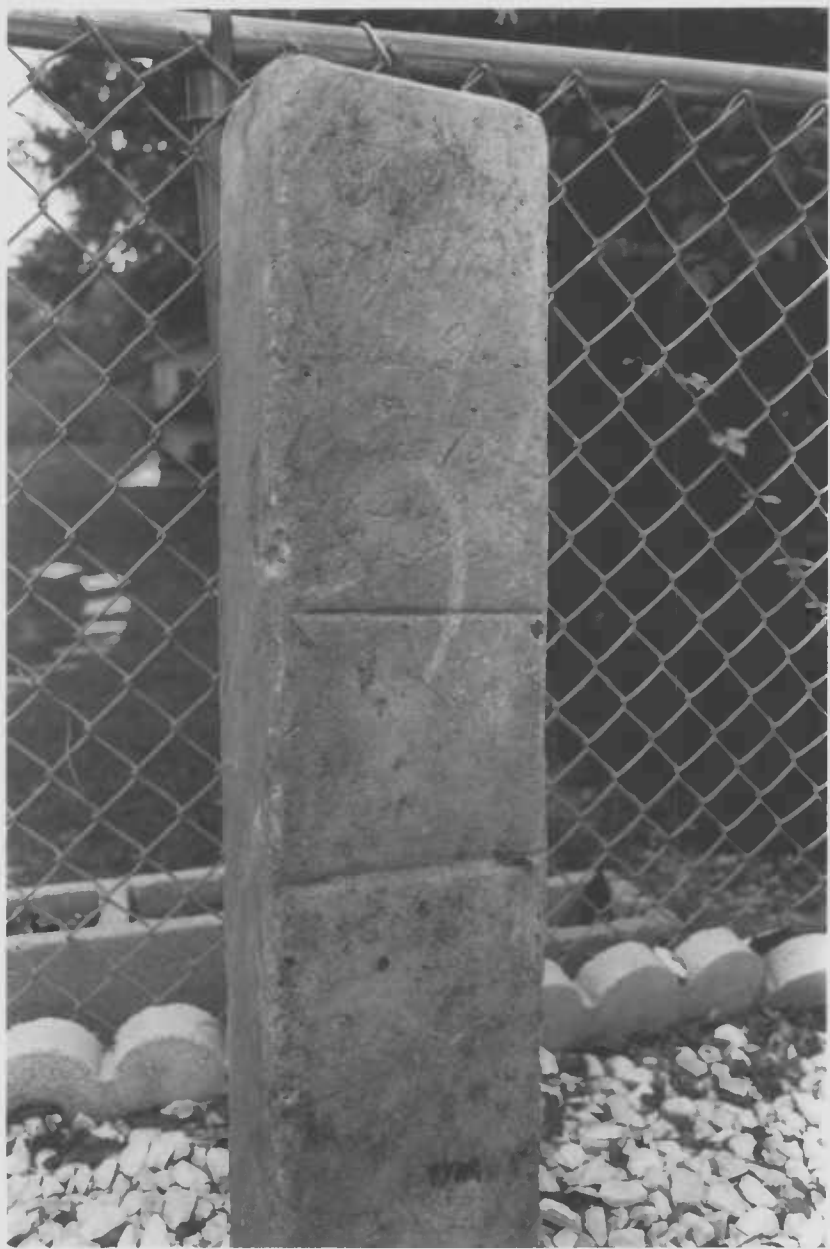
P. 6 #69-21

Cherry Hill Cemetery
Martin Luther King

May 1989

view southeast

Negatives: MD Historical
Trust, Annapolis



Detail of

P. 5 #69-21

Concrete tombstone removed
from Beacon Heights (Cherry
Hill) cemetery by a
concerned neighbor

Fall 1988

Margina
matney

King
Edward

Negatives.

MD Historical

Trust, Annapolis



Cherry Hill Cemetery P.G. # 69-21
Photo of concrete grave
marker before its removal.

It was located on the
cemetery lot line

Marina King

Fall 1988

Negatives: MD Historical
Trust, Annapolis



P.S. # 69-21

Chow H. Sze

Mario Ling

May 1989

View south from adjoining yard,
shows original placement of
concrete grave marker

Negative, MD Historical
Trust, Annapolis